fions calling for the appointment of a committee to inves | NEWS FROM STATE CENTRES. sgate the conduct of Brewster Cameron, Jr el W. Da han and Z. L. Tidball, connected with the Department of Justice of Texas, against whom specific charges have been prepared and will be presented at the same time. Tidball is now United States Marshal for Arisona. This action is said to be instigated by A. B. Norton, ex-United States Marshal for the Northern District of Texas, who is an uncle of Mr. Hurd.

CAPTAIN PIKE ON GREELY'S CHANCES. WASHINGTON, Dec. 28 .- A reporter asked Captain Pike this afternoon what he thought of Lieutenant Greely's chance of maintaining himself during the winter. He said he thought it probable Greely could teep himself in food, "but," he added, "the trouble is if he leaves his station he will look for a house and supplies at Littleton Island, where there are none. If he leaves his post depending on relief there he may be in trouble."
"Is there any possibility of sending relief to him there
before next summer?"

before next summer!"
"None whatever, before next June or July. The Dundee whatever, before next June or July. The Dundee whaters are the first to go up, and they don't go as
far as Littleton Island." hance of sending sledge parties up the Greenland

coast?" No; they can't sledge at all through that country

MISSISSIPPI RIVER COMMISSION. Washington, Dec. 28 .- The report of the Mississippi River Commission, giving the progress of the surveys and examinations in the improvement of that river since December 1, 1882, was submitted to the Secretary of War to-day. The report is full and circumstan tial. One of the items is an estimate of the number of cubic yards of earthwork required for the levees at certain grades between Commerce, Mo., and the ferts below New-Orleans, a distance 1,553 miles. The total cost, at twenty-five cents per cubic yard, is estimated at \$11,443,770. cents per cuble yard, is estimated at \$11,443,770. The financial statements accompanying the report give the estimates of funds required for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1884; For the improvement of the Mississippi River below Cairo, \$3,000,000; June 30, 1850, for work on the New-Madrid reach, \$1,000,000; for work on the Memphis reach, \$675,000; to continue the salaries and expenses of the Commission for the next fiscal year, \$200,000.

A minority report says the appropriation of \$11,443,770, mentioned by the Commission, is too small for any adequate system of levees intended to prevent destructive floods.

NAVAL INTELLIGENCE. ORDERS TO OFFICERS-OFFICIAL REPRIMANDS,

Washington, Dec. 27.—Commander Henry B. Robeson has been ordered to duty in charge of the Navigation Department, Navy Yard, New-York; Medical Director A. L. Gihon to duty in charge of the Naval Hos-pital, Washington; Passed Assistant Surgeon Charles W. Rush has been detached from the Colorado and granted three months' sick leave; Assistant Paymaster T. J. Cowie from the New-Hampshire and ordered to special duty; leave of absence for one year, with permission to leave the United States, has been granted Surgeon E. C. Vermuelen; Lieutenant A. M. Knight has been ordered to instruction in ordnance at the Washington Navy Yard, January 10; Eusign Dewitt Coffman has been detached from the Franklin and ordered to the Yantic, January 10.

The acceptance of the resignation of Ensign W. G. David, to take effect February 23, 1884, has been changed so as to take effect August 23, 1884. Euslyn A. E. Jardine, United States Navy, and Gunner George Dunn were retired to-day, the latter at his own request.

The Secretary of the Navy has disapproved the findings of the court martial in the case of Captain A. W. Johnson, who was acquitted of charges of culpable negligence and who was acquitted of charges of culpable negligence and inefficiency in the performance of duty, in the matter of the collision with the schooner Druid. In concluding a general order the Secretary says: "The neglect to do anything whatever cannot, under the circumstances, be regarded as an exercise of due diligence, but, on the contrary, in the opinion of the Department required a finding that Captain Johnson was guilty of inexcussible negligence. Notwithstanding the number, rank and experience of the officers comprising the court, the Department of the duty of a commanding officer measure of the duty of a commanding officer comstances no more difficult than those which appear in this case, must hereafter be exercised, and commanding officers will be held to the strictest responsibility in every case which may unfortunately occur."

In approving the sentence of the court martial in the case of Lieutenant Charles A. Stone, which was suspension from rank and duty for two years, during which time he is to retain his present number in the list of lieutenants. Secretary Chandler reprimands him severicy in general orders.

The Mahican was successfully launched to-day at the

general orders.

The Mehican was successfully launched to-day at the Navy Yard, Mare Island, California. The hulk of the old steamer Mohican, which sank several years ago, will be sold at public auction.

The Secretary of the Navy has issued an order to suspend work at the Boston Navy Yard on and after January 15, and for the dismissal of half the force employed there on that date. The oreaking up of condemned vessels will continue, and the yard will then be converted into a ropewalk. An order closing the League Island Navy Yard and converting it into a construction yard for steel vessels will be issued, as soon as the breaking up of the steamer Ossipec is completed.

ARMY ORDERS.

Washington, Dec. 28.—Leave of absence for four months, to take effect about January 15, 1884, has been granted First-Lieutenant James D. McKlernan, 17th Infantry. The leave of absence granted Second-Lieutenant Walter A. Thurston, 16th Infantry, December 10, has been extended three months. Leave of absence until March 31, 1884, has been granted Second-Lieutenant Alexas Oth Infantry The real matter of Secondander Thomas, 9th Infantry. The realgnation of Second-Lieutenant Alexander Thomas, 9th Infantry, has been accepted by the President, to take effect March 31, 1884. Captain Joseph Sanger, 1st Artillery, has been ordered to report in person to Major-General Jonn M. Schoffeld, United States Army, commanding Division of the Missouri, for duty as aids-decamp.
During the temporary absence of the Surgeon-General, United States Army, Major David L. Huntington, surgeon, will, by direction of the President, take charge of the office of the Surgeon-General, and perform his duties.

WASHINGTON NOTES.

WASHINGTON NOTES.

Washington, Friday, Dec. 28, 1983.
Offer of Compromise Resected.—The Secretary of the Treasury has rejected the offer of compromise in the cotton case of f. Masich, of New-Orleans, which has been pending in the department for a long time. The foliettor of the Treasury had recommended the acceptance of the

LAND ENTRIES CANCELLED .- Upon evidence showing fraud in making entry, the Commissioner of the General Land office has within a week cancelled twenty-one en-tries of public land in Colorado, twelve in Dakota and seventeen in New-Mexico. DISBARRED FROM PRACTICE.-The Secretary of the In-

best has disbarred from practice before the Interior Department Edwin H. Hall, a pension attorney from Boston. This action was taken upon evidence that Hall had discounted payments of pensions to pensions, holding their certificates as collected in violation of law.

THEY ALL FAILED TO PASS.—The Board appointed to examine candidates for appointment as assistant naval constructors in the Navy has reported that the standing of those examined was as follows: H. K. White Sti, George P. Frothingham 477; C. R. Hanscom 412; W. H. Hart 346; John Frishle 307. The minimum standard required to pass the examination was 600.

HEIR TO A COOL HUNDRED THOUSAND.

Charles H. Mathews, treasurer of the Metropolitan Opera House, was called to Akron, Ohio, on Thursday, by a telegram announcing the death of his father, James H. Mathews. The deceased man, who was upwards of eighty years of age, was a Scotchman. For thirty-five years he was agent at Akron for the Mutual Lafe Insurance Company of New-York, and in that time he paid the company more premiums than any agent in Ohio. He was Mayor of the city for ten or twelve years. He amassed a fortune, which will probably reach \$200,000 There is no anticipation that he left a will, and the pro-There is no anticipation that he left a will, and the pro-perty will be divided between two sons, of whom Treasurer Mathews is one. Mr. Mathews married a second time about ten years ago, but made separate provision for his wife as part of the marriage contract, so that she does not come in for a share in the property. Treasuror Mathews came to New-York eight or nitur years ago as bookkeeper for Henry E. Abbey, who was a fellow-towns-man.

AN ANTHROPOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

About a dozen medical and scientific gentlemen met yesterday afternoon at the call of the Rev. Edward P. Thwing, of St Mark's-ave., Brooklyn, in the rooms of Dr. A. D. Rockwell, at No. 46 East Thirty-firstst., to form a provisional organization to be known as "The New-York Authropological Society," and to include " persons who are interested in the history and phenomena or numan life and the relations of body and mind, in health and disease." Mr. Thwing presided. A constitution and by-laws were adopted. The Rev. Mr. Thwing was elected president; Drs. W. C. Jarvis and R. Grmiston, vice-presi-dents, and Dr. A. D. Rockwell, secretary. The society is the first society of the kind in this country, although in Europe there are several, notably the Psychical Society of London.

BUSINESS FAILURES.

Higgins & Fowler, manufacturers of soap at No. 234 Cherry-st., made an assignment to Alfred W. Lewis, vesterday, with preferences of \$12,550. The firm was composed of William B. Higgins and William J. Fowler, and has been in existence since December 1, 1881, when it succeeded Higgins Brothers & Fowler, of which firm they had been members. Dun's agency has reported them as being slow in their payments for some

time.

Genet & Silver, who began the commission lumber business in April, 1882, and dissolved on October 15, 1883, made an assignment yesterday to John T. Underhill, with preferences of \$6,958 sc.

Rudoif Weise, manufacturer of frames and mouldings, at No. 188 Grand-st., has made an assignment to Henry G. Kelm, with preferences of \$13,979 15.

BUFFALO.

CHRISTMAS CHURCH MUSIC-RHEA-MAT-

THEW ARNOLD.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.] Buffalo, Dec. 28 .- A review of the Christnas season just closed shows that trade was, on the whole, very satisfactory. All the merchants report large sales. The churches, which at this time exhibit a friendly rivalry in the extent and variety of their musical programmes, did not in any case fall behind the standard of former years. Special soloists and small orchestras were engaged in several churches and drew large congrega-tions. It is usually the custom here to employ the services of outside singers on festival days, the number of really available local solcists being somewhat limited, though the general average of salaries is quite large. One church, which is willing to pay, according to report, \$1,200 a year for a soprane, has not as yet been able to find just the voice required; and another wealthy congregation lacks a tenor, though ready to pay what is a large salary in a city of this size. The custom of engaging prominent vocallsts on special occasions resulted at one time in secur-ing the services of Miss Lilian Norton, and this season those of Signor Brocolini, of the Boston Bijou Theatre

Company, and Mrs. Belle Cole, the concert soprano. The theatres have offered special attractions this week. Mile. Rhea has been seen in a round of her popular characters. The spectacle " Excelsior" has run through the week at Music Hall, and Richard Manaileld has presented his realistic ereation of Baron Cherrial at another house. Mile. Rhea is always the recipient of many social attentions during her Buffalo engagements. F. F. Fargo, president of the Press Club, gave an elegant reception in her honor on Friday evening, at the superb Fargo house, the occasion calling forth prominent society representa-tives in great numbers.

Theodore Thomas gives a concert with his orehestra January 8, and while in the city he will lay out the pro-gramme for the June musical festival.

Matthew Arnold has been secured for a lecture early in January, through the efforts of a local literary club. Sicilety is meanwhile marking him for her own, though it is not yet known whether he will submit to even a limited

Mrs. Mary A. Livermore is among our present distin-guished visitors, and is amounced to lecture to-morrow evening on "The Boy of To-Day."

ROCHESTER.

G. A. R. ENCAMPMENT-A WRETCHED JAIL "FEDORA."

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

ROCHESTER, Dec. 28.—General John S. Reyolds, Grand Commander of the Grand Army of the Republic of this State, announces that there will be a arge attendance at the State Encampment to be held in this city January 30 and 31. Many entire posts will be present, and it is expected that there will be 5,000 eteran soldiers in line in the parade. Arrangements are being completed on the most extensive plan. General Grant intimates that he will be present; but his recent ecident may interfere with his plans. Generals Sherman and Sheridan have been specially invited. The Encampnent will be held in the new Warner from building. One nundred and ten posts have been organized in the State during the year; and General Reynolds reports great activity and interest. The question of enlarging the Soldiers' Home at Bath, which is now overcrowed with ndigent members, will be considered at this encampment.

The question of increasing the number of wards in the city is again receiving attention. There are now sixteen wards; but in three or four of these the population eaches nearly 10,000, and there is a demand that a new division be made. Assemblyman Pratt will introduce a oill in the Assembly to this end at once. Should three new wards be created it would make a tie of city and country members in the Board of Supervisors. This would revent the country towns from forcing, as they have for ears, an unjust equalization of taxes, and would proably result in a new county fail being built. The present fail has been a dispace for years, and is condemned regularly by every Grand Jury; but the country supervisors refuse to join their city associates in building a new one.

Fanny Davenport appeared in "Fedora" here, for the first time out of New-York, this week. Her audiences, strange to say, were small; and theatrical managers say that "Fedora" will share the same fate as Sardou's other play, "Diplomacy," which was a failure in this country

SYKACUSE.

SUICIDE OF A PRISONER-LEGISLATIVE GOS-SIP-SOCIAL NOTES.

IBY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.)

Syracuse, Dec. 28 .- A sad case was reported ast night. Abram Gerlinsky came to Syracuse from New-York about six months ago, and procuring a pack started and the wedding garments were procured. But all at Bessle brought a suit for breach of promise and Gerimsky was arrested and locked up in just. His friends considered the offence triffing and told blin they would try and get him out. He made the remark, it is said, that if they did not he would hang himself. Yesterday and day before every effort was made by his friends for a settlement of the case with the girl, who placed her damages at \$10,000 Last evening at five o'clock the case was settled and the Sheriff proceeded to the prisoner's cell to inform him of that fact. The officer found Gerlinsky hanging by his Proch neck from the ceiling of his cell. He had suspended him, self with a sheet from the bed. Life was extinct. The Coroner's jury rendered the extraordinary verdict to-day of death from accidental hanging.

Thomas G. Alvord expresses the belief that either Mr. Sheard or Mr. Erwin will be elected Speaker. He further states that there is no bottom to the movement for Littletohn. Mr. Husted, says Mr. Alvord, is by far the best parliamentarian and the best man for Speaker, but he is cool enough and wise enough notito enter the race. Mr. Alvord declares that he expects good things from the Legislature this winter. The statement that the On daga wembers of the Assembly have decided to support Mr. Littlejohn for Speaker is authoritatively denied. is known that Mr. Shoemake: has promised to vote for A Mr. Sheard. The other members will decide for whom to vote after looking the ground over at Albany.

Preparations are about completed for opening the West Shore road for traffic between Syracuse and Buffalo. The date of the opening is January 1. Well-wishers of the road look with some anxiety upon the proposition to open in the dead of winter a trunk line single track road, which has not yet been graded.

Mr. Mantell, the leading actor in Fanny Davenport's Mr. Mantell, the leading actor in Fanny Davenport's Company, attended the young gentlemen's party after the theatre on Wednesday night. He was the guest of Captain Robert Townsend. Mr. Mantell is well known in social circles in Syracuse. The first of the series of young gentlemen's parties was a brilliant social affair. Mrs. George Barnes, Mrs. Hamilton 8. White, and Mrs. J. M. Belden acted as reception committee. It was conceded that the belie of the evening was Miss Annie Bruce, danghter of General D. H. Bruce of The Syracuse Journal. Bumor has it that the eugagement of Miss Bruce to Frederick White, son of President White, of Cornell University, will shortly be announced.

shortly be announced. Mr. and Mrs. George N. Crouse will give a reception on Monday night at their house. The ladies of Syracuse generally will receive on New Year's day. Ex County Clerk Plagar E. Evens gives a reception to the Bachelors Clab at his house on Tuesday night.

Robert J. Niven, who married Mrs. Horace F. Clark, at Frankfort-on-the-Main, formerly resided in Syracuse, where a portion of his family still lives. Of late years Mr. Niven has resided almost constantly with Mr. and Mrs. Clark, while his wife remained in Syracuse. The death of Mrs. Niven was followed closely by the nuptials of air, Niven and Mrs. Clark. of Mr. Niven and Mrs. Clark.

TROY.

CHRISTMAS OPERETTA-LARGE HOLIDAY

INT TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE, TROY, Dec. 28 .- One of the most brilliant

eretta, giving old Christmas customs, such as bringing in the boar's head, was finely presented. Dr. Warren from early childhood has had a keen perception of colors and forms, and all dresses in the operetta were provided by him, and colors were provided with reference to scenic effect. The vocal talent was supplied largely by the choir of Holy Cross Church, of which Dr. Warren and his brothers were the chief promoters, and Dr. Tucker, the compiler of church music, rector. George Henry Warren, the New-York millionnaire, is brother of Dr. Warren.

Business failures in Troy this year numbered six, a decrease from last year. The assets in these cases were only \$70,000, against liabilities of \$247,000. Business is generally on a solid footing, and commercial confidence bight.

The holiday trade in Troy almost assumed metropo proportions. One retail house had 310 employes and horses hard at work, and took in \$20,000 in one day.

Trinity Methodist Church is attended by several ne Trinity Methods: Canada is according from works, in the place of strikers. At the Sunday-school Christmas celebration the men were escorted to and from church by police, and three policemen were stationed in the vestibule during service, while the Moulders' Union patrol paced the street outside.

"The Queen's Lace Handkerchief" was given in fine style at the opera house by a New-York company this week. Fanny Davenport returns to-morrow, in "Fedora," after four years' absence.

ALBANY.

THE RATHBONE TRAGEDY-NEW YEAR'S CALLS-BOARD OF TRADE.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.] ALBANY, Dec. 28 .- The Rathbone tragedy at Hanover has been the subject of general conversa and has attracted wide sympathy for the unfortunate family. Mrs. Rathbone, the first victim, is recalled as the one who supported President Lincoln when he fell in the box at Ford's Theatre; and her dress, stained with the President's blood, has been preserved by the family. A relative of Mrs. Rathbone by marriage states that before the faulty sailed Mrs. Rathbone informed him that her life had been already threatened by her husband in one of his despondent fits. The relative urged Mrs. Rathbons then to secure a divorce on the grounds of incompatibil-ity of temperament; but under ordinary chromatanees their domestic life was so happy that she decided not to

take so painful a step. In attendance the ball for the benefit of the Nursery Hospital this year was a complete failure, and it will probably not be undertaken next year. It has been the social event of the winter for the last five years. Hitherto tickets have been issued solely by invitation. This year they were put on sale.

The Thursday "assemblies" opened more successfully, and promise to be the feature of the season's social enter talnments.

New Year's calling, as an old Dutch custom, has held its own tenaciously in the city, but this year few ladies of social prominence will keep open house, and the number of callers will be limited. The custom of passing the few days between the holidays in the country is being taken up, and affords an excuse for the basket on the door New Year's Day. Governor Cleveland will receive members of the Legislature, State officers and citizens at the Executive Chamber, between 1 and 2 o'clock on Tuesday.

Several prominent ladies interested in music are circu tating a subscription list for a concert b. Theodore Thomas in January, as none of the managers are willing to run the risk of loss. For several years, every firstclass musical performance here has been a financial fall-ure. Two years ago Mapieson is understood to have lost \$1,000 on two operatic performances with Gerster and Valleria. Since that time there has been no creditable Italian opera given here.

The Board of Trade has on foot a project to become a The Board of Trade has on foot a project to become a stock company, purchase or creet a building of its own, establish an option board, and put itself in line with sim-ilar commercial bodies throughout the country. At pres-ent the board is in a moribund condition, and some means of restoring interest is necessary to its perpetuity.

The city is contesting the claims for expenditures and damages mearred in the erection of the New-York Central Railroad viadact across Broadway. By the terms of the act under while the work was done, the railroad agreed to pay for the viadact and the city to pay for

THE ROSPITAL FUND CONTRIBUTIONS.

YEAR-EXPECTATIONS FOR SUNDAY.

A MOST PAVORABLE OUTLOOK FOR THE PRESENT

The reports received by the Saturday and Sunday floquital Association, with regard to the progress of the collection for the present year in the various trades play, "Diplomacy," which was a failure in this country and exchanges, are most encouraging. Certain it outside of New-York City. Margaret Mather, supported is that the collection will exceed in amount that of any enormous andiences this week, but her acting has not been praised so lavishly as last year. Experienced crities declare that there has been no improvement in her methods. To old play-goers and Shakespearean scholats.

Mr. Levick's performances have been the artistic features of each production.

Site, one of a committee of six, has done for the Dry of Gools Auxiliary, his aggregate alone reaching \$2,475; Lawrence, Taylor & Co., \$100; A. D. Juillard & Co., \$100; Harding and Colby & Co., \$100; Fanikacr, Page & Co., \$100; Coffin, Attenus & Co., \$100; Googre A. Clark & Bro., \$100; George H. Byrd, \$100; O. Jailly & Pinkus Co., \$100; Coffin, Attenus & Stlx, one of a committee of six, has done for the Dry Gools Auxlinary, his agaregate alone reaching \$2.475; Lawrence, Taylor & Co., \$190; A. D. Jufflard & Co., \$190; Harding and Colby & Co., \$190; Faulker, Page & Co., \$190; Geogre A. Clark & Bro., \$100; Colfin, Attenus & Co., \$100; Geogre A. Clark & Bro., \$100; Geogre M. Clark & Bro., \$100; Geogre M. Clark & Bro., \$100; Geogre M. Byrd, \$100; O. Juff & Pinkus \$100; M. Ewart & Son., \$100; Townscand & Yale, \$100; W. Ewart & Son., \$100; Townscand & Yale, \$100; Low. Harriman & Co., \$100; Faulker, Reserved to Parks was then taken before an input of the Department of Parks was then taken before an input of the Son payment. One of these pieces was tested, and found to be counterfeit. Santari was held for examination.

The badget of the Department of Parks was then taken before a liquor store at No. 11 New-Chambers at compliance of passing counterfeit money. The batterfield & Co., \$100; Low. Harriman & Co., \$100; Faulker, Reserved to Parks was then taken before an input of the store and getting liquor, always presenting 25-cent pieces in payment. One of these pieces was tested, and found to be counterfeit. Santari was held for examination.

The badget of the Department of Parks was then taken before a liquor examination.

The large feet of vasciling for the precious and an abditional was stands and an abditional was stands and taken before Commissioner Shields, on a charge of passing counterfeit money. The before Commissioner Shields, on a charge of passing counterfeit money. The passing counterfeit money. The passing counterfeit money. The best of the partment Donald Gordon's bankrupt store, which has been opened by the assignee to dispose of the holiday goods, was closed the day after Christmas, on an attachment procured by three New-York creditors. An effort will be made to set have been retained by New-York people. The closing of the store has thrown a large namoer of men, weemen and ehildren out of employment at an unfortunate season of the year.

A Bro., \$100; George H. Byrd, \$100; O. Jan's & Pinkus Sion; Amaddown & Smith, \$100; W. Ewart & Son., \$100; Townsend & Yale, \$100; E. Belin, Nesser & Co., \$100; E. Butterfield & Co., \$100; E. Butterfield & Co., \$100; E. W. Harriman & Co., \$100; W. Simpson, Sons & Co., \$100; Brown, Wood & Ringman, \$100; W. Simpson, Sons & Co., \$100; Brown, Wood & Ringman, \$100; Briss, Pabyan & Co., \$100; Lawrence & Weich had been done in the way of surveying the children out of employment at an unfortunate season of the year. enddren out of employment at an unfortunate season of the year.

No further changes have been made in the Western House of Refuge; but a change in the management in the mear future is not importanced; and the question whether any potent reason for the existence of this institution exists has already been most forcibly put. Further developments are expected at the next meeting of the Board of Managers.

Co., \$100; H. H. Biumentani, through Joy, Langdon & Wideh had been done in the way of surveying the Twenty-third and Twenty-fourth Wards, and making and completing maps of that district for the use of the Department of Taxes and Assessments.

No further changes have been made in the Western House of Refuge; but a change in the management in the mean greathed the mines of people against the institution, as it is at present conducted at the next more than stronged and completing maps of that district for the use of the Department of Taxes and Assessments.

Kibbs, Chaffee, Shoeve & Co., \$50; Lackemeyer & Treatment of Taxes and Assessments.

Kibbs, Chaffee, Shoeve & Co., \$50; Lackemeyer & Treatment of Lackemeyer & Co., \$50; L source the following: H. B. Claffin & Co., \$200; Wood-ward, Baldwin & Co., \$100; Lion Brothers & Co., \$100; Denny, Pool & Co., \$100; Aldrich, Iddings & Cuffon, \$100.

Denny, Pool & Co., \$100; Aldrich, Iddings & Clifton, \$100.

From the Cotton Exchange the following subscriptions are reported up to date: Fielding & Gwyn. \$25; Inman. Swann & Co., \$25; Herrman Bros., \$25; E. Tamehill & Co., \$25; Lethann Bros., \$25; E. Tamehill & Co., \$25; Lethann Bros., \$25; Travers & Hackman, \$25; Thomas Scott, \$25; Uohn, Habennan & Co., \$25; J. T. Haneman, \$25; Knoop, Freich & Co., \$25; H. Hintz & Co., \$25; D. G. Watts, \$25; J. White, Jr., \$15; M. C. Alee, \$10; J. H. Parker, \$10; Murphy & McCormack, \$10; K. Siedenberg, \$5; out of unexpended charity Fund voted by the Exchange, \$250.

From the Stock Exchange the following gifts are reported: Speyer & Co., \$250; W. R. Bonn, \$100; John E. Johnson, \$100; J. C. Tappin, \$100; Worrishffer & Co., \$56; Blake Bros. & Co., \$25; L. Canh & Co., \$25; A. W. Funmoes, \$25; J. C. Walcott, \$10; J. Penjamin & Co., \$10; E. Morisson, \$10; A. Dyett & Co., \$10; Gwynne & Day, \$10.

Examiner Brown, \$40; Reading Responsibility, the Day, \$10. Through the personal efforts of A. R. Ausboeker, the casurer of the Paints, Oils and Drug Trade Auxiliary, to contributions from this source siready equal the total a last year, similar reports are received from the casurers of the Clara and Tobacco Manufacturers Trade auxiliary, and Book Trade Auxiliary. Encourating resolutions of the Clara and Tobacco Manufacturers Trade auxiliary, and Book Trade Auxiliary. Encourating resolutions of the Clara Explanation of the Clara Explanation. Produce and other Exchanges.

What is expected from the Churches on Hospital Sun-

Denominations Episcopai Presbyterian Methodist Haptist Dutch Heformed Lantherian Congregationalist Universalist Universalist Universalist Universalist Ontarian Miscolianeous by Bagogues	51 23 8	Promised to contribute this year. 21 53 51 23 17 5 8 2 2 18 28	Whole number of of churche 78 70 58 34 25 20 6 4 3 30 35
Totals	111	294	307

A sufficient number for use on Hospital Sunday will be sent to every paster in the city.

FIRE RECORD.

NARROW ESCAPE OF POWDER MILLS. Wilmington, Dec. 28.—Fire broke out this morning in a cooper slop belonging to E. I. Dupout, Denemours & Co., and situated near the company's pow-

der mills. Sparks were carried to the powder mi the snow on the roofs prevented them from taking fire. The cooper shop, keg mill, tar house, hoop house, and a large stone factory used as a store house, together with considerable shedding, were burned, entailing a loss of

MILLS DESTROYED IN MASSACHUSETTS. LOWELL, Dec. 28.-The loss by the Eagle Mills fire at West Chelmsford last night is estimated at \$100,000; insurance, about \$80,000. The mills were closed during November, owing to the dult times, but had recently started up. The fire is supposed to have been due to spontaneous combustion.

STATE CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION.

ALBANY, Dec. 28.—The State Civil Service Commission has designated the following as a Board of Examiners for Albany: Hiram E. Siekles, reporter Court of Appeals, chairman; James E. Morrison, Deputy Superintendent of Public Instruction; Willis E. Merriam, warrant clerk, Controller's office; Richard G. Milks, receiving clerk, Treasurer's office; and John G. Clifford, clerk, Insurpace Department. The Board is made to consist of five, instead of three, so as to insure the actual attendance of a full number of examiners at times when official Why we Laugh.—There is a young Indian in Winnepog who makes a living by laughing as a profession. He will laugh five minutes for five cents; and when some one tells him that Thiden will be the next Democratic Presidential candidate, he will laugh five minutes for five cents; and when cratte Presidential candidate, he will laugh five minutes for nothing. He can't help it.—[Norristown Herald.]

TROY, Dec. 28.—One of the most brilliant features of full number of examiners at times when official and the president was the operation. His departments are pressing and some may be kept away by official engagements. The Commission is now ready to receive applications for examination for addressed to the commission at Albany, and proper blanks will be promptly furnished. An examination will probably be held about the middle of January next.

substantial house was converted into a stage, and the op-

WHERE THE CITY'S MONEY GOES-

CHOPPING OFF A QUARTER OF A MILLION FROM

THE CHARITIES AND HEALTH BUDGETS. The Board of Estimate and Apportionment continued yesterday its consideration of the final estimates for the maintenance of the city government for 1984. Mayor Edson presented a communication from Commissioner Coleman, of the Street Cleaning Department, asking for a transfer of \$10,000 from an unexpended balance of 1881 to the appropriation for the removal of snow and ice for 1883. He reminded the Board of the amount of snow that had fallen in the past few days, amounting to 25.0 inches. The transfer was made. The sum of \$34,333 was transferred from the Excise Fund to various charitable institutions.

CUTTING DOWN THE CHARITIES BUDGET. The various items composing the budget of the Depart ent of Charities and Correction were then taken up The Commissioners asked for an appropriation of \$381, 799 for salaries. The Board reduced this to \$350,000 The Department asked for \$1,013,823 50 for supplies. President Asten said that this sum was too large. He agreed with the Mayor that there was a good deal of difficulty in reaching a fair estimate as to the amount needed because there were so many items making up the separate accounts of the bureaus. He had investigated the cost of the various articles called for under the head of supplies. He submitted the following table, showing he amount appropriated for supplies in 1880,1881,1882 and 1883, the number of inmates of the charitable and penal institutions, and the amount per capita, together with the estimates for 1884:

Appropriation Ceasus Per Capita \$75+188 10,107 \$77.28 755,090 10,208 \$5.76 900,000 10,470 \$5.06 908,049 11,161 \$6.50 1015,423 11,488 \$8.40

The contract for meat in 1883 was for 3,000,000 pounds at 8 cents a pound, the cost being \$240,000 The contract made for 1884 for the same number of pounds was at 64 cents a pound, the cost being \$190,000 r \$50,000 less than the contract price for 1883. Th ost of milk for 1883 was \$53,757. For the coming year It would be \$51,300. The supply of fish for the various institutions cost in 1883 \$16,500. There were 330,000 pounds used at 5 cents a pound. For 1884 only 34 cents a pound would be paid. In 1883 there were 22,875 parrels of flour bought at \$1 85 a barrel. There were 64,482 dozen eggs purchased at \$21 05 per hundred dozen. There were 2,925 gallens of whiskey purchased at \$1.32 a gallon. All these frems would undoubtedly be reduced in cost by the lower value of the articles. After considerable discussion the Mayor said: "If there is no objection we will make this item of supplies \$0.50,000." This was passed unanimously. The sum of \$35*-000 was allowed for reconstructing and repairing the east wing of the Asylum for the Insanc ou Ward's Island, which was damaged by fire recently. The item of alterations, additions and repairs to buildings and apparatus, for which \$60,000 was aslead, was reduced to \$50,000.

THE OUT-DOOR POOR
For distribution of coal to the out-door poor, transpor ation, etc., \$40,000 was asked. A letter was read from Mrs. Josephine Shaw Lowell, protesting against granting sharacter should be made by the charitable organizations who have this matter in hand and are constantly en

who have this matter in hand and are constantly engraded in the work. In any case the amount could be
reduced by \$25,000, and this sum could be better used
in another direction.

President Reilly.—This is a great city and there are
many poor in it. I move that the item he retained.

Mayor Edson.—Mrs. Lowell has given the subject
much study, and we should give heed to her suggestions.

President Asten.—The system of the city authorities
giving to the out-door poor has been given up in Philadelphia, and it is not followed in Brooklyn. None of us
want to see the poor suffer, but they can better be looked
after by private associations.

saciphia, and it is not followed in Brooklyn. None of ma want to see the peor suffer, but they can better be looked after by private associations.

Mayor Edson.—It is well to make some appropriation. The cost of transportation in part comes from this item. Finally \$20,000 was appropriated for this purpose, President kelly alone voting in the negative.

The following items were then agreed to Poor adult blind, \$20,000; donations of money and clothing to dis-charged prisoners from the Pentientary, \$4,000; con-struction of new buildings, \$72,000 (\$102,000 asked;) land on Ward's Island, \$79,605 10; water on Hark's land on Ward's Island, \$79,605 10; water on Hark's land, \$9,000; training school expenses, \$500.

President Porter came in just as the Board had finished the estimates of his department. He said that the De-partment of Charatles and Correction had received bials for the construction of a new steamboat for the use. Florer had been previously appropriated \$56,000 for this purpose, made up of transfers of various kinds. He had intended to use for \$42,000 additional, as the steamboat would cost \$96,000, and to request that \$42,000 be taken from the appropriation for supplies the columnsioners finding that they could save many \$90,000 by reason of the lower bids. He had learned, however, that the Board had out down the amount for supplies materially and there-fore he 'felt' dendring about proflering his request. If would seriously cripples the department to have the appropriation for supplies related any more. Mr. Aster Housant \$90,000 a large sum to pay for a steamboat for the use of the department. Mr. Porter reputed that the best was to be \$216 test long and capable of carrying 500 mospie. There was some surprise serioned by the Board that a boat of this size was

ke up the budget. One of these was \$50,000 for ding carbing and paving Transverse Road No. 2 in enty-ninth-st., and repairing and maintaining Transminth st., and repairing and maintaining Trans ads Nov. 1 and 3, at Sixty fifth and Eighty

is the star.

Mr. Asten asked if \$36,000 would not suffice.

General Viete replied that it would not if the readway
were pared with granife, the same as the others.

Mr. Asten said be could not see why it was necessary
to have granife. Belgian pavement would do considering
that these roads were not travelied much.

This item was reduced to \$40,000. The from of \$50,000 for constructing incomplete partions of Central and city parks was reduced to \$10,000. DIVISIONS IN THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT ILLEGAL.

The Health Department estimates were gone through scriptim. Mr. Asten sald that there had been seven civious exected in the Health Department, with a head provided that there should be only two bureaus in the

Board of Hea th. This creation of divisions had led to an increase of salaries, amounting in the aggregate to \$15,500. This year there were employed in the bepartment 177 persons. For 1834 the estimates called for 190. Lost year the salaries amounted to \$153,622. He was willing to apply the same amount for the coming year. The amount asked for was \$173,024. Controller Grant called the attention of the floard to the fact that \$10,000 was asked for the inspection of new buildings and a similar amount for the registration of plumbers. These were really salaries.

It was fluidly surved that \$173,000 should be appropriated for salaries. The following items were then agreed to: Contingent expenses, \$8,225; dishiftection, \$10,600; law expenses, \$2,000; hospital supplies, etc., \$39,700; removing night soil, dead animals, etc., per contract, \$36,000; hospital fund for care and main temper building on North Horder Island, \$10,000; for placemen, \$36,000; hospital fund for care and main temper building on North Horder Island, \$10,000; for placement, \$36,000; for creetion of storage building at the foot of East Sixteenth-st., \$21,000; for the construction of a looping to remaid of rooms, \$1,200; The Department sekes for \$340,790, and was allowed \$402,775. The largest item disallowed was one of \$118,000 for the construction of a fever hospital on North Brother Island.

The floard will to day take up the estimates of the

on North Erother Island.

The Board will to day take up the estimates of the Police Department and the Board of Education. It hopes to finish its labors to day.

REDUCING WAGES IN THREAD MILLS.

William Clark, treasurer of the Clark's Thread Company, of Newark, stated yesterday that the proposed reduction of wages in the mills of the proposed reduction of wages in the mills of the company affected only sixty spinners, and that there had been no indication of a strike. The reduction was fifteen per cent in the Newark mill and ten per cent in the Kearney mill. The action of the superintendent was taken without reference to any action of the Mile End Thread Company, in East Newark. A conference of the spinners and the superintendent was held, but no change was made in the terms of the reduction. "The reduction was made" said Mr. Clark, "because the company was made in where wages than connections, and because, made" said Mr. Clark, "because the company was paying higher wages than competitors, and because, since the last reduction in the tariff, thread can be imported cheaper than it can be made here. If there is another reduction of the tariff, there will be a corresponding reduction in the wages, if complica-tions require the entire suspension of the business, it will be done."

it will be done."

The average wages now paid to the spinners is stated to be \$17 in the Newark mill and \$20 in the Kearney mill. With the reductions, these hands in the Newark mill will average from \$15 to \$16

THEODORE ROOSEVELT FOR SPEAKER. The Young Men's Republican Club at its last

meeting appointed a committee consisting of George IRP, General Henry E. Tremaine, Mortimer C. Addoms, Jefferson Clark, ex-Assemblyman Henry L. Sprague, ex-Alderman James W. Hawes and Harwood R. Pool to take Rosevelt and of his career as a representative of the best elements of the keepablean party in this State, is of the opinion that his election as Speaker will tend to further good manicipal Government and has resolved to recommend him as a fit candidate for Speaker. The com-

HOME NEWS.

PROMINENT ARRIVALS. PROMINENT ARRIVALS.

Gilsey House.—Governor-elect George Hoadly, of Ohlo; Senator James G. Fair, of Nevada, and exCongressman Richard Crowley, of Lockport, N. Y....

17th Arense Hotel—Senator A. P. Gorman, of Maryland,
and Railroad Commissioner John O'Donnell, of Albany.

Windsor Hotel—Congressman J. Thomas Spriggs, of
Utlea, and Mme. Pattl. Everett House—President D. C.
Gilman, of John Hopkins University; President M. B.
Auderson, of Rochester University; and General Thomas
H. Ruger, U. S. A.... New Fork Hotel—Rear-Admiral
Daniel Ammen, U.S. N., and Major N. W. Osborne, U. S.
A. S. James Hotel—The Rev. Dr. R. B. Fairbairn, of St.
Stephen's College. Grand Clentral Hotel—Professor C.

V. Riley, United States Entomologist. ... Hotel Brunswick—Lieutenant W. de Bodisco, of the Russian Navy.

WHAT IS GOING ON TO-DAY. rd of Estimate and Apportionment, Mayor's Of-

Board of Estimate and Apportionment, Mayora Orace, 11 a.m., Funeral of Professor B. N. Martin, in Scotch Presbyterian Church, 10 a.m. Winter march of Company C, 7th Regiment. Meeting of New-Jersey Schators in Metropolitan Hotel. Real Estate Exchange directors' meeting. Meeting of Brooklyn Board of Supervisors. The Rev. J. G. Wood's lecture on "The Mole," in Cooper Institute.

nstitute. Hospital Saturday collections. Professor Breneman's lecture before Ladles' Art Asso-dation, No. 24 West Fourteenth-st. Fresentation of Bleakley testimonial at Arnold's Hall, 8

NEW-YORK CITY. A Canadian toboggan is on exhibition at

assau-st. store.

The Jewish Progress, a weekly paper, will soon be started in this city. Services will be held during the Week of Prayet from January 7 to January 12, in St. Paul's M. E. Church at Fourth-ave. and Twenty-second-st. Parts of Broadway yesterday appeared to have been dried and polished. The granite blocks have not been so clean since they were laid down.

WORK OF THE CITY MISSION.
The City Mission, No. 50 Bible House, reports for December, 50 city missionaries, 285 meetings, 51,621 attendance, 51,325 tracts, 5,715 visits, 211 pledges, and 315 families relieved. The receipts were \$3,747 80; expenditures \$3,181 58.

Coroner Levy held an inquest yesterday in the case of William Krause, who was found dead in his apartments at No. 178 Suffolk-st. on Tuesday. The jury brought in a verdict to the effect that Krause had met his death by a fall.

A PURCHASE BY A STEAMSHIP COMPANY.
The Old Dominion Steamship Company has purchased from the Renwick Estate the bulkhead at the southwest corner of Beach and West sts., extending 125 feet on the latter, with wharf and water right and shipping privileges, for \$62,500.

CENSURED BY A JURY.

An inquest was held yesterday in the case of Louis A. Atkinson, who, in December, fell through a hatchway in front of No. 198 William-st, and died from the effects of the injuries which he received. The jury censured Mr. Abrams, of De Kalbave, and Fulton-st, Brooklyn, the owner of the property, for not keeping the hatchway closed or protected.

THE CONDITION OF DR. WILLARD PARKER.

The conditition of Dr. Willard Parker, who has been hovering between life and death for several weeks at his home, No. 41 East Twelfth-st, was pronounced less hopeful yesterday. He passed a restless forenoon, but was easier in the evening. At 10 o'clock he was resting well.

A PASSENGER'S MIXED BAGGAGE.
Customs Inspectors McCort and Van Horn made a large seizure yesterday on board of the bark Curacao, from Curacao, of dutable goods, owned by a passenger, which had not been declared in the usual manner. They consisted of 54 bottles of gin, 900 cirars, I large pitcher, I coat, I waisteoat, 5 tablecloths, 9 towels, I tidy, and a writing-deak.

FALLING SEVEN STORIES TO DEATH.

George Van Brunt, a workman employed on the nufmished seven-storied building, at No. 317 West Forty-third-st, slipped on a scaffold near the roof yesterday and fell to the ground. He was killed instantly. A piece of building material, displaced by Van Brunt's fall, struck James Brinkerhoff, another workman, on the head and injured himseverely. WILKINS SENT TO A REFORMATORY.

Joseph J. Wilkins, the defaulting cashier of the Electropathic Association of No. 12 East Four lecutions. who was arrested in Havana a few week.

ago, was arraigned vesterday in the Court of General sessions. He pleaded guilty to the charges against him, and was sent to the Elmira Reformatory. PASSING COUNTERFEIT MONEY ON CAR DRIVERS.
Street-car drivers of the Sixth-ave, line were
enreful yesterday about the money they took in.
The previous day three or four counterfeit onedollar bulls were passed on them and a quantity of
counterfeit twenty-live-cent pieces. The latter are
said to have the right weight and size. They can
only be tested and detected by biting them, when a
crackling sound like the breaking of glass is heard.

THE DISLIKE TO SAILING ON FRIDAY.

The large fleet of vessels, including several ocean steamships, which were to have sailed on Thursday but were dotained because of the fog, went to sea yesterday. Most of the steamers left their piers when the fog lifted on Thursday night to avoid beginning the voyage on "unlucky Friday," the vessels anchoring in the Lower or Upper Bay until yesterday morning.

A SOCIETY OF THE SONS OF THE REVOLUTION.

In accordance with the suggestion made at the turtle dinner at Jacob Etzel's "Washington Headquarters," at Broad and Pearl sts., on December 4.

turtle dinner at Jacob Etzel's "Washington Head-quarters," at Broad and Pearl sts., on December 4, John Austin Stevens has mysted all descendants of soldiers of the Revolution to meet at the same place on Monday next, at 5 p. m., to organize the Society of the Sons of the Revolution. The qualification for membership will be simply the proof that ap-plicants are descendants of those who were engaged in the Revolution.

in the Revolution.

STRIKING CARPET WEAVERS FIRM.

About 1200 of the striking earpet weavers, who were employed by E. S. Higgins & Co., met in Wierdell's assembly rooms yesterday. The chairman of the executive committee reported that there was plenty of money in the hands of the committee to carry on the strike for several weeks. It was said that efforts are making to get individual strikers to return to work, but without success. A large number of the strikers have found other situal ions. It was recolved to hold ano her meeting next Thursday, and, if the firm had not given in, to demand ten per cent over the old wages.

A GENIAN GHE CREELLY DECRIVED.

given in, to demand ten per cent over the old wages.

A GEBMAN GIBL CRUELLY DECRIVED.

In the Yorkwille Police Coort yesterday, Lena Goldberg, a buxom young German weman, of No. 363 East Sixty-ninth-st, said that she was engaged to be married to Bermard Rosenblat, a Pole, living a No. 445 West Thirty-seven h-st. He borrowed \$65 of her, with which to furnish apariments for them to occupy, and then took and her bride home to occupy the rooms made confortable by her money. When she learned that she had been deceived, and Rosenb att refused to return the money, she caused his arrest. He was hold by Justice Morray for examination. tice Murray for examination.

THE BOOTS WERE TOO LARGE.

"Umph!" said a big fat woman in Chatham-st, yesterday as her feet slipped from under her and she said down quite unceremoniously on the sidewalk. "I told John when he brought home them walk. "I fold John when he prought pane them boots that they were big enough to turn around in. But he didn't believe it. Guess he'll wish he had go't that pair of sixes when he sees my mangled remains bein' brought home in a cab." Three policemen and a messenger boy assisted by a hotel porter managed to get the unfortunate woman into a cab. As she drove away she muttered, "John will be sick for a week after paying this bill."

sick for a week after paying this bill."

A TRICK TO GET LIQUOR.

"Mister, give me an old sody water bottle, if yer please, my horse's ankle is sore and I want to get some limiment." Thus spoke a seedy looking tramp who wished to appear as a huekster to a Third-ave, saloon-keeper. The tramp was given the bottle, Across the street he handed it to a companion who carried an old bag in which were several bottles. No horse was to be seen. The trick was one to get rum. Two tramps travel together to earry out this scheme. When they get a dozen or two bottles they sell them for liquor, they sell them for liquor.

The Gotham Art Students' Club held its fourth anniversary last evening at its rooms, No. 17 Bond-st. The beams and rafters of the studio in the top floor of the building were draped with flags and decorated with flowers. Heavy curtains of dark colored stuff were hung on the walls and against this background the pictures were seen with good effect. The club numbers twenty-five members. J. S. Sharp is the president, and Walter Shirlaw the professor. Paintings and studies were lent by J. W. Alexander, E. A. Abbey, W. St. John Harper, A. H. Wyant, Walter Shirlaw, Alfred Kopper and

others.

GIVEN TEN YEARS IN THE STATE PRISON.

The dwelling house occupied by Hugh O'Neill, at No. 149 West Twentieth-st.was entered by huglars on the night of December 17 and silverware and clothing were taken away. Several other houses in the neighborhood had previously been broken into. Defective James K. Price found some of the stolen property at No. 161 West Twentieth-st., where he arrested Alfred Stevenson and William Smith, both colored men. Smith pleaded guilty to a charge of burglary and Stevenson was convicted of the same offence, Judge Cowing yesterday sentenced each of the prisoners to ten years in the State Prison.

According to the annual statement of Controller Brinkerhoff, the net city debt now is \$37,048,-179 63. At the same time last year it was \$37,493,-723 40.

The James Methodist Episcopal Church has placed a mortgage for \$12,000 on the new edifice it is building at Reid-ave, and Monroe-st.

The lighter C. C. Brower, lying at Prentice's stores, was capsized by the wind yesterday morning, throwing 1,000 bags of sugar into the water. A little of it was recovered. The loss is estimated at \$2,000.

Daniel Luyster, first Alderman of the Eighteenth Ward of Brooklyn, died on Thursday, at the age of 62. He was an active volunteer fireman in his young days. He left a widow and grown children. young days. He left a whow and grown children.

Miss Keziah B. Blackburn, who was found dead
in her rooms in East New-York, where she lived
alone, left a will providing that she should be
buried in a rosewood coffin with six silver handles
on each side, and it should be carried in a hearse
drawn by six horses, and followed by six coaches,
and attended by six pall bearers with white kid
gloves and white scarfs. She left \$1,000 in a
savings bank savings bank.

ans. Liedke, of East New-York, L. I., informed the police of that place yesterday that she suspected that the woman whom John Koop said that he had murdered near New-Brunswick, N. J., last summer, was her sister, who married a man named Koop five years ago, The matter will be investigated.

JERSEY CITY

George Fox, an employe of the Delaware, Lacka-wanna and Western Express Company, who disau-peared six weeks ago with \$970, returned yester-day and surrendered himself to the police. LONG ISLAND.

FRESH POND.—John Dwyer undertook to lead a vicious bull to Maspeth to be slaughtered on Thursday afternoon. When near Sampson's oil-cloth factory, the animal became unmanageable and tossed Dwyer in the air and when he fell gored and pawed him. Dwyer's cries were fortunately heard by some of the factory hands, who went to his as-sistance and drove the animal off. Dwyer was taken to his home suffering severely from his in-

FAR ROCKAWAY .- Lewis Corson, proprietor of the Waverly House, while seated at a window on Thursday was knocked from his chair by lightning. The building was not damaged.

Long Island City.—The Board of Aldermen met-iast night and proceeded to consider the tax levy for 1884. The amount required for interest in the funded indebtedness of the city will be \$81,622. WESTCHESTER COUNTY.

SING SI G.—A vocal and instrumental concert was given on Thursday night in the chapel of the prison by the choir, composed of a number of the inmates.

WHITE PLAINS .- Surrogate Coffin, of Westchester WHITE PLAINS.—Surrogate Collin, of Westchester County, yesterday issued letters of admission to John Abendroth, of the estate of the late Philip Rollhaus, of Port Chester, estimated at \$300,000. By his will the property is left to three nieces; Maria Elizabeth Thieling, Catherine Elizabeth Schroeder and Mary Amanda Lyon. STATEN ISLAND.

EDGEWATER.—James A. Baker, village clerk, has received \$105 for the relief of the families of the pilots who lost their lives in the pilot-boat Columbia.

THE DEPARTMENT FRAUDS.

HOW CITY CONTRACTS SHOULD BE LET. WHAT A RAILROAD CONTRACTOR THINKS OF MR. THOMPSON'S EXPLANATION.

To the Editor of The Tribune. SIR: In common with other railroad contractors of large experience, I am much amused at the attempts of Commissioner Thompson to explain satisfactorily that city contracts are let according to law, and if there is loss to the city it cannot be helped; that the Honorable Commissioner and Corporation Counsel know of no legal way to prevent Persons of any experience in contracting exclaim. That's "too thin."

I know of no law which compels the city of New-York to guarantee its own estimates, and experience shows that the engineers are very peor guessers."

It is understood the world over, when a contract s let to the lowest bidder i either means a specified amount of money to complete the job without regard to measurement, or a specified sum per cubic yard for the work actually performed, to be measured by the engineer employed by the parties for whom the work is performed.

One or the other of above plans should be adopted for doing city work. All the engineers employed by the city need do is to prepare plans and spectifby the city need do is to prepare plans and specifi-cations of the work required to be done, stating that the quantities of different kinds of work are unknown, and among the bidders will be found the most respectable and responsible contractors in the country, who wou d like to do the work for the city because the pay is sure, and therefore more desirable than any other work that can be found, but who now never think it worth their while to put in a bid for city work, because they consider it simply impossible to get a contract.

CONTRACTOR.

CONTRACTOR. New-York, Dec. 28, 1883.

THE CITY PRESS ON THOMPSON'S DEFENCE, A SEARCHING EXAMINATION NECESSARY. A SEARCHING EXAMINATION NECESSARY.

Commissioner Thompson has sent to Mayor good a long and elaborate answer to the charges recently published against his department. His friends will naturally believe he makes a good defence. His opponents will as atturally view it critically and detect its weaknesses and lefects, while his accusers will all the more follow up the charges organizat him now that the grounds of his defeues ire half open. The morning newspapers have taken sides, and are already deep in the trial by newspapers; but here opinions differ so widely and are so manifestly inherenced by partisan and other considerations which ten the unbiancing of the judicial mind, that their attrumes must in all cases be taken with qualifications. The me fact about the marter which cannot be denied, even y Mr. Thampson's most ardent partisan, is that a state. one fact about the matter which cannot be dealed, by Mr. Thompson's most ardent partisan, is that a of things has been shown to exist in the Public V Department which imperatively demands thorough searching examination by the Grand Jury and b Legislature. It is certain that legislation of some s demanded to protect the city against such frauds as been exposed, and it is not improbable that is legitimate work too for the Grand Jury.

WORK FOR THE GRAND JURY. From The New York Evening Post.
It is evident that the truth in this whole matter It is evident that the truth in this whole matter can only be obtained by an impartial and thorough insertiation by some authority like the special Grand Jury, which has aruple power to examine all the facts and features and judge for itself. The question cannot be settled by a "trail by newapoper." The Triturne has presented his in reply. We are no nearer a decision than we were at the outset. It is evident that some of the original charges cannot be sustained every by further evidence, which, if it exists at all, is beyond the reach of newscaper enterprise. For his defence Mr. Thompson can uso ance facts as he needs, and can omit to use such as would not help his case if they were revealed. No man such that he may send to the Mayor for publication can visuate the public mind concerning the condition of affairs in his lepartment. If he is an innocent man and his methods are susceptible of defence on the ground of public welvestication. Until he does do that the present suspicion will remain, and his own conduct will do fail as mach to maintain it as the most serious accusations of his political mentics.

INVESTIGATION NEEDED NOW.

From The New York Graphic.

Commissioner Thompson shows no disposition to dodge the responsibility piaced upon him by Tax Transke, and his defence shows that The Transke has exagrerated the losses sustained by the city through unbalanced bids; but there remains a great deal yet to be explained, and The Graphic's suggestion that there be a complete investigation holds good. This investigation should be at once, and under Democratic suspices, that, whether there be guilt or not, the matter may not be made a means to Republican capital in the great coutest next year. Every effort will be made by the Republicans to secure advantages of this kind, and the Governor or the Mayor should see to it that they are not given the opportunity. Let this matter and all other matters of the same nature be probed by Democratic instruments, and let the work be done without delay.

SEARCHING INOUTRY DEMANDED.

SEARCHING INQUIRY DEMANDED.

SEARCHING INQUIRY DEMANDED.

From The New Fork Times.

Now, this defence is throughout plausible; in parts it is conclusive. But it is to be remembered that Mr. Thompson has control of his own data, and is able to use them in his own way, while the public has no opportunity of examining them except with the arrangement that he gives them. It cannot ted what is missing or put out of its proper relation, nor is it in a position for the most part to make any intelligent analysis of his figures and his statements of fact. If his methods have been judicious and proper and his purposes honest, and if he is confident that his administration has been efficient and economical, he can do no better than to invite the most searching examination of his department, and to do all in his power to facilitate it. If the examination vindicates him, the public will be satisfied by any defence prepared by himself, where there are so many chances that, if he is the skifter rescal that his enemies charge him with being, the public may be heodwinked by his elaborate explanations.

BOTTOM FACTS WANTED.

heedwinked by bls elaborate explanations.

BOTTOM FACTS WANTED.

From The Mail and Express.

THE TRIBUNE'S war on the Department of Public Works has compelled the head of the latter to make an elaborate defence. Now let the bottom facts be brought out by a searching investigation and by swen testimony, and the intelligent taxpayers will decide fairly on the various indictments against Mr. Thompson. Mero newspaper discussion, at this stage of the game, is idle and uninteresting.

CABLE RAILWAY TROUBLES. From The San Francisco Alla-Californian, Dec. 15.
A bill in equity has been filed in the United States Circuit Court by the Cable Railway Company vs. the Market Street Cable Railway Company, Leland Stanford, Charles Crocker, Charles F. Crocker, W. V. Huntington and Nicholis T. Smith, praying that the defendants be restrained from making and using any truck or dummy with a gripping device attached therefo, or bracking the invention of plaintiffs, and that the same may be delivered and destroyed, etc.